Remarks

Summary

The claims have been amended to address the formal rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Since this formal rejection is the only remaining rejection in the case, and since by this amendment it has been overcome, all of the claims are now in allowable form.

Status of the claims

Claims 1, 6, 9, 16, 17, 22, 27, 37, 38, 43, 44, 49, 50, 53, 59, 62, and 63 have been amended to improve their form. Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8-11, 13-22, 24, 26, 27, 29-32, 34-44, 46, 48-50, 52-55, 57, and 59-66 are pending. Claims 1, 6, 13, 22, 27, 34, 43, 44, 49, 50, 57, 59, and 78 are independent.

Requested action

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejection in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Allowed claims

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of Claims 13-15, 18-20, 34-46, 39-41, 57, 59-61, and 64-66.

Formal rejection

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9/6, 9/8/6, 10/9/6, 10/9/8/6, 11/1, 11/6, 16, 17/13, 17/16/15/13, 21/1, 21/6, 22, 24, 26/22, 26/24/22, 27, 29, 30/27, 30/29/27, 31/30/27, 31/30/29/27, 32/29/27, 32/27, 37, 38/34, 38/37/36/34, 42/22, 42/27, 43, 44, 46/43, 46/44, 48/43, 48/44, 49, 50, 52/49, 52/50, 53/44, 53/49, 53/50, 54/49, 54/50, 55/43, 55/44, 55/49, 55/50, 62/61/57, 62/61/59, 63/57, and

63/59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph because the Examiner objects to specific language in the claims which is allegedly not disclosed in the specification.

In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejection, Claims 1, 6, 9, 16, 17, 22, 27, 37, 38, 43, 44, 49, 50, 53, 59, 62, and 63 have been amended to delete the language objected to by the Examiner, thereby obviating the rejection.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is now in allowable form.

Therefore, early passage to issue is respectfully solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted

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